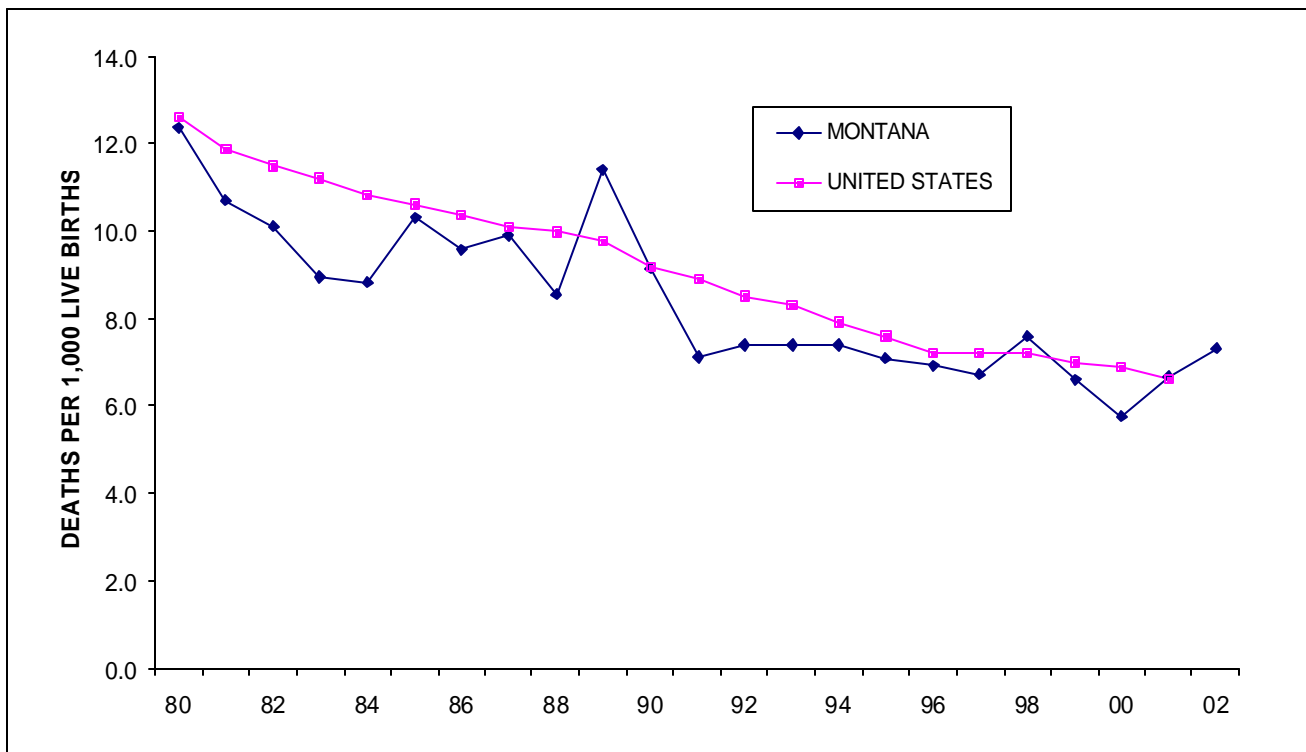


2002

MONTANA

VITAL STATISTICS

INFANT MORTALITY RATES
MONTANA AND THE UNITED STATES, 1980-2002



OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

"It is the mission of the Office of Vital Statistics to build and maintain a complete, uniform system of accurate vital information which satisfies the legal requirements of individuals and their families, provides timely and convenient access for research and statistical needs for planning at the local, state, and national levels, and ensures the security of the information guaranteed by law."

The Office of Vital Statistics:

Maintains a permanent public record of each birth, death, and fetal death filed in Montana since 1907.

Maintains statistical information and statewide indexes for each marriage and marital termination that has occurred in Montana since July 1943.

Develops forms, standards, and guidelines for registration or reporting of all vital events occurring in the State of Montana.

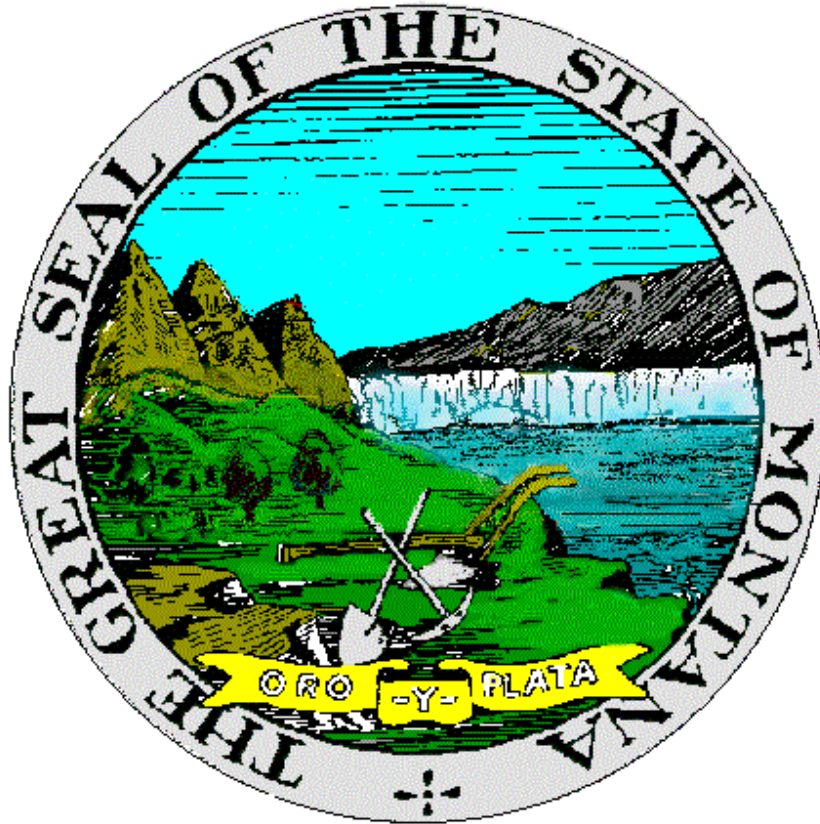
Directs and monitors the functions of 56 local registrars to assure statewide compliance with the statutory mandate for uniform application of registration laws, policies, and procedures.

Provides certified copies of birth, death, and fetal death certificates and processes certificate corrections, adoptions, legitimations, and delayed birth certificates.

Prepares and maintains computer files of State birth, death, fetal death, induced abortion, marriage, marital termination (divorce) data and monitors these files for data quality.

Builds and continues cooperative relationships with federal, state, and local agencies--including the National Center for Health Statistics--that collect, maintain, and use vital records and health statistics.

Provides statistical data tabulations and analyses in support of health policy development, status assessment, and service assurance.



The Honorable Judy Martz
Governor of Montana

Gail Gray, Ed.D.
Director
Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services

November 2003

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